

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /156 W
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R 261127Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1541

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 079

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 2090

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, CY, XF

SUBJECT: UNGA: US POSITION ON INSCRIPTION OF PALESTINIAN ITEM

REF: A. STATE 207895; B. DAMASCUS 2027; C. DAMASCUS 2054

1. TOOK OCCASION OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD
SEPTEMBER 25 TO REVIEW USG POSITION RE INSCRIPTION
PALESTINIAN ITEM AT UNGA. USED PARA 2 STATE REFTEL IN
ITS ENTIRETY AND EMPHASIZED THAT OUR PRINCIPLE CONCERN
LOOKING AHEAD TO THIS DEBATE WAS THAT IT NOT CREATE
OBSTACLES TO THE ONGOING DELICATE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.
SAID WE HOPED THAT ANY UNGA RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD NOT
PREJUDGE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA
CONFERENCE AND CONCLUDED IT IMPORTANT BEAR IN MIND

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ADVERSE EFFECT ON ISRAELI OPINION AND WILLINGNESS

TO NEGOTIATE WERE RESULT OF UNGA DELIBERATIONS
TO IMPLY CALLING INTO QUESTION ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE.

2. PRESIDENT PAUSED AND THEN SAID WITH DELIBERATION
HE EXPECTED THE DEBATE (A) TO CLARIFY THAT THERE
COULD BE NO COMPROMISE OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND
(B) TO DO NOTHING WHICH WOULD COMPLICATE THE ONGOING
PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. PRESIDENT AFFIRMED WITH CONFIDENCE
THAT DEBATE WOULD NOT GET OUT OF HAND. TERMED INSCRIPTION
OF PALESTINIAN ITEM ON THE UNGA AGENDA AS LONG OVER
DUE. SYRIA FIRMLY HELD THIS TOPIC SHOULD BE DEBATED
SEPARATELY FROM THE GENERAL ME QUESTION.

3. HE NOTED THAT THE ARABS EXPECTED ISRAEL TO BE UNHAPPY
ABOUT THE UPCOMING DEBATE BUT HE AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS
HAD AGREED THE DEBATE COULD HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON
US PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION WHICH WOULD IN
TURN SERVE TO KEEP ISRAEL ON THE NEGOTIATING COURSE.

4. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND THAT SECRETARY
KISSINGER MIGHT FIND PROSPECT OF THIS DEBATE UNAPPEALING.
I SAID THAT I BELIEVED SECRETARY'S OVERRIDING CONCERN WAS
THAT PARTICIPANTS IN THE DEBATE SO CONDUCT THEMSELVES AS
NOT TO RENDER MORE DIFFICULT THE ONGOING COURSE OF
NEGOTIATIONS. PRESIDENT REITERATED HE WAS CONFIDENT THIS
WOULD BE THE CASE.
MURPHY

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NNN

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